

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for distributing intellectual property comprising the steps of:
accepting identification information of intellectual property being offered
for sale from a seller, the intellectual property being stored on a seller computer
5 associated with the seller;

storing the identification information in a database of intellectual property
being offered for sale;

providing access to the database to a user;

accepting a designation of desired intellectual property from the user;

10 brokering a payment transaction between the user and the seller; and

instructing the seller computer to transfer the intellectual property to the
user.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

15 providing a plurality of agreements under which intellectual property may
be distributed to the seller;

accepting a selection of one of the plurality of agreements from the seller;

providing an agreement selected by the seller to the user; and

20 requiring the user to accept the agreement selected by the user prior to
performing the instructing step.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the database is stored on a single server.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of verifying that
intellectual property chosen by the user is available before performing the
brokering step.

5. A system for distributing intellectual property, the system comprising:
a central server, the central server including a database of intellectual
property being offered for sale, the intellectual property being stored on a plurality
of seller computers;

5 a plurality of kiosks connected to the central server, each of the kiosks
being configured to perform the steps of

displaying a list of the intellectual property being offered for sale to
a user;

accepting a selection of intellectual property from the user;
10 transmitting payment information to the central server;
receiving intellectual property corresponding to the selection from a
seller computer; and

making the received intellectual property available to the user.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the making step is performed by
15 displaying the received intellectual property on a monitor.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein the making step is performed by storing
the received intellectual property on a storage medium.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the storage medium is a compact disk.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein the storage medium is a DVD.

20 10. The system of claim 7, wherein the storage medium is a floppy disk.

11. The system of claim 7, wherein the storage medium is paper.

12. The system of claim 7, wherein the storage medium is videotape.

13. The system of claim 5, wherein the payment information is a credit card number.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the kiosks further comprise card readers for reading the credit card number.

5 15. The system of claim 5, wherein the central server is configured to transmit a copy of the database to the kiosks and the kiosks are configured to maintain a local copy of the database.

16. The system of claim 5, wherein the central server further includes a database of terms under which the intellectual property is being offered.

10 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the terms correspond to terms selected by a seller from a plurality of standard terms presented to the seller by the central server.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the terms correspond to terms supplied by a seller.

15 19. The system of claim 5, wherein the kiosk is further configured to perform the step of caching frequently purchased intellectual property.

20. The system of claim 5, wherein the kiosk is implemented on a single computer.

20 21. A method for distributing intellectual property comprising the steps of:
storing intellectual property being offered for sale on a computer associated with a seller;

storing ^{an} identification of the intellectual property in a database;
providing access to the database to a purchaser;

accepting a selection of intellectual property from a purchaser;

brokering a payment transaction between the user and the seller; and

transporting the intellectual property from the seller to the purchaser.

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22. The method of claim 21, wherein the database is stored on a computer used by the purchaser.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the database is stored on the seller's computer.

24. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of determining whether the intellectual property is available from the computer associated with the seller.

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25. A device for distributing intellectual property comprising:

a memory, the memory including a list of intellectual property being offered for sale, the intellectual property being stored on a plurality of seller computers, the list further including an address for each seller computer;

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a display device; and

a processor connected to the memory and the display device, the processor being configured to perform the steps of:

displaying the list to a purchaser;

accepting a selection of intellectual property from a purchaser;

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transmitting payment information from the purchaser to a third party for brokerage;

receiving the intellectual property from the seller; and

making the intellectual property available to the purchaser.